

POETRY CLUB.

Saturday, October 14th.—Tennyson's "In Memoriam" was the subject for the first meeting of the term. There was a good attendance. Extracts from Stopford Brooke's Life of Tennyson were read, followed by selections from "In Memoriam." During the last part of the evening some short poems, including "St. Agnes' Eve," were read by request.

Saturday, October 28th.—This meeting was again devoted to Tennyson, special attention being paid to the "Idylls of the King," parts of "Lancelot and Elaine," "The Holy Grail," and "The Passing of Arthur" were read, and there was a short discussion as to the reason of Tennyson's great popularity as a poet.

Saturday, November 11th.—Wordsworth's Sonnets.—Miss Mason having shown us some beautiful photographs of the River Duddon, we took as our subject for the evening Wordsworth's sonnets on that river. A few of his other sonnets were also read.

At this meeting, which was unfortunately very badly attended, the new president for 1906 was elected.

The Poets for next term were also chosen.

President, 1906—Miss M. E. Davis.

Poets chosen :—

Herbert.

Pope.

Sydney.

Milton.

Whittier.

Moore.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

NOVEMBER 28TH, 1905.

DEAR MADAM,

May I, on behalf of the Nature Study and Recreation Committee of the Children's Country Holiday Fund, ask for space in your next issue of "L'Umile Pianta," to speak of the help which the past students of the House of Education have given us this summer?

The committee's object is to interest the children, who are sent away through the Fund, in the life of the country; that so their holiday may be a time of greater refreshment and deeper pleasure.

The means employed to increase the children's knowledge of animal and plant life are lectures, with lantern illustrations, nature talks and rambles; and it is in the two last named that kindly assistance has been received from those whose student years were spent at Ambleside. Several of these have spared time to address the children in their schools, illustrating their talks by flowers, leaves, and birds' nests; others have devoted Saturday afternoons to taking groups of boys and girls for rambles, in either instance giving the young folks the material of knowledge which is necessary for enjoyment.

Although 4,700 participated in these pleasures, these are only a small proportion of the 35,000 children who were sent for a holiday through the Fund's help; but next year we hope that those who are helped to study nature will be largely augmented; for my committee trusts that we may look for the increased help of your readers in quickening the children's minds to realise the delight of watching the sky; the shapes and hues of trees; the colours and shapes of flowers; the varied grasses; and the forms and habits of birds—though most of England's unpaid choir are silent during August, which, as things are arranged at present, is the only month for the children's holiday.

I am,

Yours truly,

HENRIETTA O. BARNETT,

Chairwoman of the Nature Study and Recreation
Committee.